



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS LABORATORY TEST: SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR

This standing order is issued by Dr. Cara Christ, MD MS (NP #1639369036), Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services. This standing order authorizes any licensed pharmacist, as per guidance by Health and Human Services, to order and administer (or oversee the administration by trained personnel) a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test for any individual in accordance with the conditions of this order.

PATIENT ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria are required for a pharmacist at a testing location to administer and collect a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test by this standing order:

Individual who is concerned that he or she has been exposed to and infected with COVID-19

AND

Individual who has signed a consent and voluntary isolation agreement (or parent/guardian, if patient cannot legally consent)

PLAN OF CARE

A licensed pharmacist/trained personnel operating at a pharmacy or testing location may collect a nasopharyngeal swab or other appropriate clinical specimen and order a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR.

A. Preparation to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:

1. Ensure correct testing materials: (1) Sterile Dacron/nylon swab with an aluminum or plastic shaft (cotton swabs with wooden shafts are not recommended); (1) Viral transport media tube with 1-3mL of sterile viral transport medium.
2. Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment for medical provider: gloves, gowns, surgical mask (or respirator) and eye protection (goggles or face shield).

B. Instructions to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:

1. By medical provider / trained personnel:
 - o Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.
 - o Insert swab into nostril **parallel** to the palate. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions.
 - o Slowly remove swab while rotating it.
 - o Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.
2. By patient: Follow manufacturer-specific instructions for specimen collection.

C. Instructions to process clinical specimens:

1. Store specimens at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.
2. Process specimens in accordance with national biological safety regulations, procedures as listed under the CDC Emergency Authorization Agreement, and the supervising Arizona healthcare facility or pharmacy.

NOTE: Pharmacies should have access to medical personnel to assess and respond should a patient need medical attention.

NOTE: Processes to collect other appropriate clinical specimens should follow test manufacturer instructions.

NOTE: Emergency medical services should be activated if a patient appears toxic, is struggling to breathe, or moribund.

FOLLOW-UP

1. Test results should be reported to the patient within one week of the testing unit's receipt of the test result.
 - o A positive result requires continued in-home isolation per local health department recommendations.
2. Results should be reported to the Arizona Department of Health Services, as required by Arizona Administrative Code, R9-6-202.

Cara Christ, MD MS, Director of Arizona Department of Health Services

Effective Date: 5/15/2020; Expiration Date: 6/30/2020

Douglas A. Ducey | Governor Cara M. Christ, MD, MS | Director